

United States of Asian America Festival 2021

**ANGEL ISLAND INSIGHT: THE LAST HOISAN POETS & DEL SOL QUARTET**

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021, 2pm-3:30pm

Pre-show "Angel Island Insight" Photography Slideshow

**Del Sol Quartet:: Huang Ruo: A Dust in Time**

**I. Welcome: ANGEL ISLAND INSIGHT: THE LAST HOISAN POETS & DEL SOL QUARTET**

Ed Tepporn, Executive Director

Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF)

Kathryn Bates: Introduction to "Angel Island Insight & The Last Hoisan Poets"

**II. Del Sol Quartet: Chen Yi: *Spring Outing***

Genny Lim: *Four Women*

Flo Oy Wong: *It is 2021*

Nellie Wong: *My Two Hearts*

**III. Del Sol Quartet: Kui Dong: *Phrase***

Genny Lim: *Hoisan Spell / Who Leaves Home?*

Flo Oy Wong: *Gell Ngnoy Yee: Call Me Auntie*

Art: *Gee Li Hong 1933 (1998)* by Flo Oy Wong

**Del Sol Quartet: Theresa Wong: *Lake Above Lake***

**IV. Nellie Wong: *Who Perfected Chinese Food***

Art: *Les' Sack (1992-2005)* by Flo Oy Wong

Flo Oy Wong: *Haw Thlim Hee (Good Heart Happy)*

Nellie Wong: *Oh No!*

**Del Sol Quartet: Jungyoon Wie: *A Popular Tune***

**V. An Introduction to Hoisan-wa**

Genevieve Leung, Associate Professor, USF

**The Last Hoisan Poets & Del Sol Quartet: *Haw Meong Suey***

**VI. Community Conversation with Q&A,**

with Genny Lim, Nellie Wong, Flo Oy Wong & Charlton Lee, facilitated by Ed Tepporn

**VII. Program Acknowledgements**

**VIII. Genny Lim: *The Journey***

## PRODUCTION TEAM

**ANDI WONG**, Project Director

**VERENA LEE** and **ISIDORE LU**, production assistants

*Angel Island Insight* Slide Photos

**MARK SHIGENAGA**

**ANDI WONG**

### ***Angel Island Insight* PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT**

The pre-show *Angel Island Insight* photographs were contributed by: Genny Lim, Nellie Wong, Flo Oy Wong, Andi Wong, Mark Shigenaga, Lenore Chinn, The Jade Snow Wong Family, Heather Knight, Christine Huhn, Imogen Cunningham, Arthur Genthe, Eadweard Muybridge, Golden Gate NRA Park Archives, Library of Congress, National Archives, San Francisco Library, Western Neighborhoods History Project.

We invite you to share your photos of Angel Island, from the island or the show, from past or present with our Angel Island Insight project for the upcoming Angel Island Oratorio premiere. For more information, visit <https://www.delsolquartet.com/angelislandinsight>

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

### THE LAST HOISAN POETS

**Genny Lim**, former San Francisco Jazz Poet Laureate and SF Arts Commissioner, is a second generation Chinese American of Hoisan ancestry. She is the lone surviving author of the ground-breaking book, *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island*, edited with Him Mark Lai and Judy Yung. The book published in 1980 sparked national attention on the long-forgotten history of Chinese detained on Angel Island and received the American Book Award. Lim's award-winning play, *Paper Angels*, set at the Angel Island immigration barracks, was the first Asian American play to air on PBS's American Playhouse in 1985 and was produced throughout the U.S., Canada and China. She is author of five poetry collections, *Winter Place*, *Child of War*, *Paper Gods and Rebels*, *KRA!*, *La Morte Del Tempo*, and an anthology of Senior Asian American memoirs, *Window: Glimpses of Our Storied Past*. Lim has collaborated in poetry and music collaborations with past Jazz legends, such as Max Roach and Herbie Lewis and long-time collaborators, Jon Jang, John Santos, Francis Wong and now, the Del Sol String Quartet.

At the age of 9, artist/poet/educator **Flo Oy Wong**, a De Anza College alumni, knew that she loved words. A few years later, say 79 years, she has become a poet who uses English and her parents' native Chinese dialect to show and to tell her collected stories of family and community.

A co-founder of the Asian American Women Artists Association, she has received 3 National Endowment for the Arts awards. Through her art and poetry she supports those who use their individual and collective voices for social justice. She stands by individuals and organizations who put

diversity, equity, and inclusion into practice. As an elder, she connects with younger people who inspire her.

Oakland Chinatown-born, **Nellie Wong** has published four books: *Dreams in Harrison Railroad Park*, *The Death of Long Steam Lady*, *Stolen Moments* and *Breakfast Lunch Dinner*. Her poems and essays appear in numerous journals and anthologies. Two pieces are installed at public sites in San Francisco. She's co-featured in the documentary film, "Mitsuye and Nellie Asian American Poets," and among her recognitions, a building at Oakland High School is named after her. A poem of hers was nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She's traveled to China in the First American Women Writers Tour with Alice Walker, Tillie Olsen and Paule Marshall, among others. She's taught poetry writing at Mills College and in Women Studies at the University of Minnesota.

## **DEL SOL QUARTET**

**Del Sol** began as a thought on the night shift at Fermilab. Charlton Lee loved the cutting edge of physics research - always looking for the next discovery, pushing boundaries. But he missed the way music connected people, building community by communicating in ways physics never would. What if he could bring that scientific passion for exploration to a string quartet?

Twenty-six years later, Del Sol is still sharing music that brings out the endorphins. Music that asks why not?

Fascinated by the feedback loop between social change, technology, and artistic innovation, the San Francisco-based ensemble is a leading force in 21st century chamber music - whether introducing Ben Johnston's microtonal Americana at the Library of Congress, taking Aeryn Santillan's gun-violence memorial to the streets of the Mission District, exploring Andean soundscapes with Gabriela Lena Frank and traditional musicians, or collaborating with Huang Ruo and the anonymous poets who carved their words into the walls of the Angel Island Immigration Station during the years of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The current Del Sol lineup, marked by the arrival of violinist Sam Weiser alongside mainstays Kathryn Bates and Ben Kreith, bring a fresh energy, freedom, and precision to the group.

Recognized as a "vigorous champion of living composers", Del Sol has premiered hundreds of works by composers including Terry Riley, Gabriela Lena Frank, Frederic Rzewski, Ben Johnston, Chinariy Ung, Mason Bates, Tania León, Erberk Eryilmaz, Theresa Wong, Reza Vali, Mohammed Fairouz and Peter Sculthorpe.

Many of these works are included on Del Sol's nine critically-acclaimed albums. PopMatters praised Del Sol's "unfettered mastery" on Terry Riley's *Dark Queen Mantra* (2017, Sono Luminus). *Scrapyard Exotica* (2015) elicited this rave in the New York Times. "I could be wrong, but I'm guessing it's been a while since you've rocked out to a string quartet recording. See if your foot can stay still once you put on this funky disc of rhythmically infectious (if often warped) music played by the adventurous Del Sol String Quartet."

With its deep commitment to education, Del Sol has reached thousands of K-12 students through inventive school performances, workshops, coaching, and residencies. The Quartet members also have worked closely with student composers, musicians and faculty artists at universities across the country.

**Benjamin Kreith & Samuel Weiser**, violins

**Charlton Lee**, viola

**Kathryn Bates**, cello

**Andi Wong** (*Angel Island Insight* Project Director) has worked as teaching artist and site arts coordinator in San Francisco public schools for over two decades. As project coordinator for ArtsEd4All, she creates curriculum, conducts workshops, hosts film screenings, and organizes participatory community events such as the annual Blake Mini Library book drive for Hamilton Families. She engages in environmental advocacy with The Blue Marbles Project and DWeb Camp at The Mushroom Farm. Her creative partners include Marcus Shelby, The Last Hoisan Poets, Del Sol String Quartet, the Internet Archive and First Voice.

## COMPOSERS

**Kui Dong** is a professor of Music Composition and Music department Chair (2018-2020) at Dartmouth College. Dong's compositions span diverse genres and styles including ballet, orchestral, chamber, chorus, electro-acoustic music, film scores, multi-media art, and free improvisation. Her works written in the US increasingly show a unique synthesis of influences from Avant-garde experimental, jazz, electro-acoustic, and other ethnic music, but at the same time maintain profound respect to Western classical music and a deep cultural connection with her roots. She sometimes incorporates theatre, as well as Chinese and non-western instruments and musical concepts into contemporary settings. When she is not writing music, she occasionally performs free improvisation on piano and writes novels on the side. Her first novel *The Story of a Little Soldier* will be published by Knowledge Press under the Encyclopedia of China Publishing House in 2020. <http://www.kuidong.net/>

Born in Seoul, South Korea, **Jungyoon Wie** is a composer, educator, pianist, and producer. Themes of identity have been the center of her compositional journey, and her current research involves creating a short film in collaboration with filmmaker Toko Shiiki, dancers Rie Kim and Jun Wakabayashi, and Converge String Quartet which explores shifting dynamics of identity, otherness, and the marginalized experience of women. This film highlights a string quartet by Ms. Wie, *han*, which uses Korean, folk, traditional, European, American, and contemporary expressive modalities. <https://www.jungyoonwie.com/>

**Theresa Wong** is a composer, cellist and vocalist active at the intersection of music, experimentation, improvisation and the synergy of multiple disciplines. She has followed inquisitive paths into song forms, video, just intonation, movement and visual media. Wong's commissioned pieces include works for Vajra Voices, Splinter Reeds, Del Sol String Quartet and pianist Sarah Cahill. Wong is a Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellow and has also been an artist-in-residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts and Yaddo. She currently works and resides in the San Francisco Bay Area. <https://www.theresawong.org/>

As a Distinguished Professor at the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance, a prolific composer, and recipient of the Ives Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, **Dr. Chen Yi** blends Chinese and Western traditions, transcending cultural and musical boundaries. Her music has reached

a wide range of audiences and inspired peoples of different cultural backgrounds throughout the world. She holds a BA and MA in music composition from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, and a DMA from Columbia University in New York City, studying composition with Wu Zuqiang, Chou Wen-chung and Mario Davidovsky. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2019. <https://www.presser.com/chen-yi>

**Huang Ruo** has been lauded by the New Yorker as “one of the world’s leading young composers” and by the New York Times for having “a distinctive style.” His vibrant and inventive musical voice draws equal inspiration from Chinese ancient and folk music, Western avant-garde, experimental, noise, natural and processed sound, rock, and jazz. As a member of the new generation of Chinese composers, his goal is not just to mix both Western and Eastern elements, but also to create a seamless, organic integration. Huang Ruo’s diverse compositional works span from orchestra, chamber music, opera, theater, and dance, to cross-genre, sound installation, multi-media, experimental improvisation, folk rock, and film. <https://huangruo.com/>

## PRESENTERS

**Edward Tepporn** joined the Angel Island and the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) team in November 2019. He has over 25 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. He previously served on staff at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) for nearly 16 years, most recently as APIAHF’s Executive Vice President. He has also served as Director of Education at Saint Louis Effort for AIDS and as Community Co-Chair of Missouri’s Statewide HIV/STD Prevention Community Planning Group. As an associate at Aplomb Consulting, he helped to staff media relations for amFAR’s National AIDS Update Conference and the San Francisco Pride Celebration & Parade. Ed received a B.A. in Biology and Psychology from Washington University. He was also a Nelson Mandela Scholarship recipient in the M.S.W. program at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work. He is a certified professional leadership coach. In 2019, Ed was awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Award for Health Equity. He is also currently a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Fellow. <https://www.aiisf.org/>

**Genevieve Leung** is the academic director of the Asian Pacific Studies MA program and director of the Asian Pacific American Studies minor. She has a BA in linguistics from UC Berkeley and dual MA degrees in linguistics (TESOL) and education (Language and Literacy) from UC Davis. She received her PhD in Educational Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania. She has taught high school English in Japan, as well as English writing, effective communication, and reading and vocabulary courses at Stanford University. She was the co-instructor of the TESOL Workshop at the University of Pennsylvania, training novice ESL teachers in the fundamentals of TESOL. Genevieve is also very interested in heritage language maintenance, particularly of Chinese Americans of Cantonese and Toisanese/Hoisan-wa language backgrounds.